



One-minute guide

The Children with Disabilities Service

What is the Surrey Children with Disabilities team?

The Children with Disabilities (CWD) team is a specialist social work service. The team works with children and young people aged 0-18 who have severe and profound disabilities that have a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to perform regular day to day activities. Local Authorities set their own eligibility criteria for specialist teams. This ensures that the most severely disabled children can access support and care at the point of need.

The service works alongside families to support children with a disability to remain living at home where possible. Keeping children with their family, in their local community is our priority. We offer families support through social work, family support and occupational therapy. Support services include direct payments, personal support budgets and residential children's homes.

What is the Surrey Children with Disabilities Review team?

Within the CWD Service there is a Review Team. It works with the same children and young people, but where a social work intervention is not needed. Families will be allocated a Family Support Worker. Family support workers are not trained social workers but have experience in working with children and families. Families will receive regular contact to review their care package.

Who is eligible for support from the Children with Disabilities team?

For the CWD team to support a child or young person, the main support need must be related to their disability. The disability must have a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to perform day to day activities.

- **Substantial** is defined by the Equality Act 2010 as meaning 'more than a minor or trivial effect'. As such, a child or young person requires significant support from another person or equipment to carry out basic functioning.
- **Long-term** is defined in the Equality Act 2010 as 'Likely to last for the rest of the person's life, or has lasted at least 12 months, or the total period for which it lasts is likely to be at least 12 months'.

To be eligible for support from the service, a child or young person must meet the description above, in addition to at least 3 criteria, from at least 3 of the separate categories outlined below. There are 9 categories of eligibility:

1. Health

- Daily specialist medical or nursing care needed (including suctioning, oxygen dependency, intravenous fluid and nutritional intake);
- Hospital admission for treatment needed at least once a year;
- Constant 24 hour support needed, day and night;
- Medication is not able to control the condition;
- Use of specialist medical equipment needed daily (e.g. ventilator, saturation monitor);
- Diagnosis of a life limiting illness;
- A multi-disciplinary, intensive therapy programme needed;
- 1:1 support needed at all times due to health needs impacting on learning, development and daily functioning.



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2. Education

- Severe or profound learning disability identified through assessment;
- Has an education, health and care plan (EHCP) and attends an education provision for those with a severe or profound learning disability.

3. Communication

- Very limited (10 words or less) or no verbal communication;
- Using non-verbal methods to communicate basic needs (e.g. Makaton, gesture, PECS);
- Unable to communicate needs using any method;
- Unable to use communication aids.

4. Behaviour associated with the disability

- Frequent, severe or profound behaviour related to the disability, such as aggression or self-injury. No awareness of the impact of this;
- Severe or profound behaviour that poses a significant risk to self or others. No awareness of the impact of this;
- 1:1 supervision required when awake as directed by a behaviour support programme from a specialist service such as a psychologist or learning disability nurse;
- 1:1 needed to access the community due to behaviour that challenges.

5. Self-care

- Fully dependent on others, or needs 1:1 support for personal care (e.g. eating, washing);
- Daily postural management and repositioning needed;
- Specialist equipment needed for all care needs (e.g. a hoist).

6. Mobility

- Unable to walk on their own or weight bear;
- Able to stand or transfer with use of an aid such as a frame;
- A wheelchair user most or all of the time;
- Can weight bear or manoeuvre self (e.g. bottom shuffling) some of the time;
- Is permanently reliant on aids or adaptations for movement;
- Cannot move themselves out of danger without support.

7. Children under the age of 5

- Developmental level around half of the expectation for their age;
- Greater care needed than a child of the same age due to health/learning needs.

8. Visual Impairment

- Mobility restricted without special adaptation or provision such as a guide dog;
- Unable to read large print without help or aids;
- Requires education by non-sighted methods;
- Severe visual field defect with impaired visual perception;
- Eligible for registration as blind or partially sighted.

9. Hearing Impairment

- Severe hearing loss (71-95Db);
- Profound hearing loss (>95Db) or total loss of hearing.





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If a child or young person meets the eligibility criteria, it will then be assessed if they need support from a family support worker or qualified social worker.

When receiving support from the CWD service, an annual assessment will take place. This is to review the support and ensure that the services we are providing are meeting the child or young person's needs. We are focused on providing services that maximise a child's opportunities and support the whole family. We have a duty to consider the needs of the whole family including parent carers and siblings.

Children and young people who are not eligible for the CWD service, may still be eligible for support from our Family Safeguarding teams or through our Early Help offer. [Our full CWD service criteria for assessment provides further detail.](#)

Referrals to the Children with Disabilities team:

You can ask for help through the [Surrey Children's Single Point of Access \(C-SPA\)](#). Or ask a professional working with your family to complete a request for support form.

The C-SPA will review the request and allocate your family to the most appropriate service. For a professional to request support for you from another service, you should have agreed that you would welcome the extra help and given consent to share your information.

Parent Carer Assessments:

Parent carers provide support to their children, including grown up children, who could not manage without their help. Within the child and family assessment we ask our social workers and family support workers to give detailed consideration to your needs as parent carers. As a result we do not routinely undertake separate parent carer assessments.

However, as a parent carer, you are entitled to request a separate a Carer's Assessment which is just focused on your needs. To request a Parent Carer Needs Assessment, you can ask your social worker or family support worker or contact the [Surrey Children's Single Point of Access \(CSPA\)](#).

[Action for Carers](#) staff can also advise and support you.

Contact:

If you have any questions about the information in this guide or the Children with Disabilities service, please contact the [Surrey Children's Single Point of Access \(CSPA\)](#).



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